



## Bargoed Town Council

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### Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Present: Councillors H Llewellyn; P Collins; R Carroll; J Bissex; J Davies; R Price; D Price; D Ingram-Jones; S Hamer-Thomas.

Also in Attendance: Mr C Jones (Youth Representative); Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

#### 1. To receive a report from Gwent Police.

Members expressed disappointment at no physical police presence at the meeting. The monthly report was scrutinised with several Members advising they would appreciate further clarification on its content. The clerk was instructed to contact the Inspector without delay.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor T Williams; Councillor C Andrews (CCBC commitment, may arrive late).

#### 3. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.

No declarations received.

The clerk drew Members attention to the error on item 4 – the meeting date being 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022, and the omission of agenda item number 5.

#### 4. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 21st 2022.

Minutes were moved as a true record by Cllr Ingram-Jones; seconded by Cllr Carroll. The meeting approved the minutes, which were signed by the mayor.

#### 6. Press and Public Participation Session.

(Members of the public who wish to speak on any item on the agenda should contact the Clerk prior to the meeting)

The clerk advised no requests having been received from members of the public.

#### 7. To receive a verbal report from the Mayor.

The mayor reported having no anniversaries or presentations/invitations this month. He spoke about attending the town and community council's liaison committee meeting advising the meeting of his request for a report on parking enforcement activity, resources available and scheduling.

**8. To consider the Draft report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2023 and complete the consultation questions.**

Members considered the draft report content and completed the consultation questions RESOLVING to develop a policy and procedure for the reimbursement of Members receipts for consumables up to the maximum of £52 per annum.

**9. To receive a verbal report from the Events & Environment Committee meeting 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

The chair provided members with a summary of the meeting and requested thoughts from council on the proposals for an outdoor cinema event in the early part of 2023. Members discussed the proposal referring to the youth representative for thoughts. Concern was expressed about the initial February date as it was felt the weather may be a bit cold and young children may become disruptive as a result. Discussions also continued about the appropriate movie. The clerk was instructed to work with Cllr R Price and the town council youth representatives to take this proposal further with a view to consideration at the next meeting of the EE Committee.

The mayor advised of very good feedback having been received after the silver Sunday event. He thanked all members for their hard work and extended his gratitude to the youth representative for the support of his volunteers. The clerk to write to the school to extend a thank you.

**10. Items from the Clerk as follows:**

**10.1 Update from the Town Centre management team in respect of Town Council projects.**

Planning permission would be required for conversion of the pierhead clock if council were to proceed. No further information yet received on this project proposal.

Permission will be granted for a long-term lease on the Bargoed town centre garden should members wish to pursue this option. The clerk has requested additional information regarding alternative options. Nothing yet on relocation of the noticeboard in Bargoed town centre.

Members spoke about the need for a larger noticeboard. The clerk to ensure this is an agenda item for the next meeting.

**10.2 Vacancies for minor authority representatives at Ysgol Bro Sannan, Aberbargoed and Aberbargoed Primary schools.**

As a casual vacancy currently exists in Aberbargoed, Members requested deferment of this agenda item.

**10.3 Member suggestions for memorial tree locations**

One proposal has been received, for a copper beech tree to be planted where the cenotaph was situated in Bargoed Urban Park. A tree of approximately 15ft, well established.

Members discussed the proposal and unanimously agreed this to be a suitable site for the memorial to HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Clerk to seek information and guidance from CCBC and to work with Cllr Carroll to obtain costs.

**11. To receive feedback from Members as follows:**

**11.1 One Voice Wales committee meetings 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

Cllr Davies reported on the area committee advising she would like to request members support to attend future meetings of this committee on behalf of town council. Topics covered at this meeting included audit returns; the consultation on electoral reforms; biodiversity reporting duty 2022. The clerk to bring electoral reforms consultation to members attention prior to the next meeting of council. The next meeting (11<sup>th</sup> January 2023) will hopefully include a presentation from transport for Wales on the metro.

Members supported Cllr Davies request to attend all meetings of the area committee.

The mayor requested that the representative bears in mind the importance of Gilfach halt train station, and ensures this is mentioned if a presentation is received from transport for Wales.

The clerk was instructed to request Cllr Williams reports his attendance at the One Voice Wales larger councils committee to the next meeting of council.

### **11.2 Member training attendance.**

Five members have completed training with one voice Wales in recent months. Members advised the code of conduct, council as an employer and the chairing skills training modules were excellent, with one member recommended anyone aspiring to fulfil a chairing role is encouraged to complete this module. The member who attended the finance module advised all members would be wise to consider this initial module as an introductory session. The clerk reminded members of the mandatory training requirement for any member of the HR & Staffing committee and confirmed to the meeting that all newly elected members have now completed code of conduct training.

The new training list to be circulated to members without delay.

### **11.3 CCBC Business networking event 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

The mayor advised council that two County borough ward members attended this event in addition to himself, and he invited Cllr Ingram-Jones to feed back to the meeting on anything he may miss in his report. He explained that the nature of the business network is very different to the old-style town centre management meetings. These are business networking events, focussing on regeneration, sharing ideas, and encouraging joint working. This meeting included a presentation from a visitor from the chamber of trade in Treorchy who spoke about initiatives they introduced to improve their town centre which led to their entry into the best town in Britain competition. He explained they had a positivity focus, where nobody was allowed to participate if they brought negativity to the table, or if they introduced something negative, they also needed to bring forward positive solutions to the issue. This has worked extremely well and there are very few empty premises in the town.

Only three Bargoed town centre businesses were present at this month's meeting, which is a concern. Members commented that communication with town centre businesses is a concern they share with the regeneration team.

Cllr Ingram-Jones advised of discussions about a placemaking plan being developed by CCBC and that prior to the networking event the county borough ward members had a walk-through town with the new officer from the community regeneration team. A proposal for the development of Royale Square is to be discussed at cabinet this month.

The mayor explained the idea of a free app being developed for town centre businesses to use for sharing information and advertising their activities to residents, and he drew members attention to his feeling that community events/activities are important if the town centre is to thrive.

Members spoke about the comic con proposal included in the events committee report and how this would potentially lead to something big for the town drawing in visitors from other areas during trading hours. The events and environment committee were encouraged to consider other similar projects for delivery in the town centre.

This concluded the business of this meeting.

The mayor closed the meeting at 7.20pm